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Fecha de emisión: 25 de agosto de 2025	Actualización: 15 de septiembre de 2025	Responsable de la revisión: Arturo Zaldívar



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Programme of activities (PoA) Non-Technical Summary

Community Program for the Preservation and Restoration of Mangroves

Introduction

Mangrove restoration is defined as activities aimed at achieving recovery in relation to a reference model, regardless of the time required to achieve such recovery. Restoration is a process that begins with the identification of the factors and causal sources of degradation, through the generation of a baseline or forensic ecology in the biophysical components of the ecosystem of interest. The result of this diagnosis prior to the actions determines the restoration activities and the monitoring of hydrological, biogeochemical, and biodiversity indicators. On the other hand, it also involves the generation of a plan that defines objectives, goals, actions, monitoring, effectiveness indicators; and the environmental, community, and financial regulatory feasibility.

Objective of the Programme of Activities (PoA)

The Program of Activities (PoA) is a framework that allows grouping different projects with similar objectives under the same common structure. Within the program, each Voluntary Project Activity (VPA) corresponds to a concrete action carried out in a specific location or community. Using this format in the implementation of a carbon project allows expanding the project's scope, ensuring that each new activity meets the same standards of quality and sustainability. In this way, we ensure that the positive impact of the program can grow and benefit more communities or project areas.

The objective of the Program of Activities (PoA) "Community Program to Preserve and Restore the Mangrove" is to implement projects for the restoration of coastal ecosystems (degraded mangroves and other wetlands), to improve their hydrological and biogeochemical function, recover carbon capture and storage, establish mangrove vegetation, protect biodiversity, and provide a series of socioeconomic benefits for the communities.

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All of this through:

- An ecological restoration strategy based on forensic ecology and baseline, hydrological and sedimentological restoration, and mangrove regeneration, environmental and biodiversity monitoring combining technological tools and community brigades.
- Training and strengthening existing productive associations (fishing and beekeeping), and promoting the diversification of activities associated with mangrove restoration, such as ecotourism, generating new income opportunities for the communities.
- Strengthening internal organization and community governance for the management and protection of mangroves in their territory.

Applied approach

Lines of Action

The lines of action described in this PoA can be implemented within each restoration area (VPA), according to the results of the initial diagnosis. Site-specific work plans will be developed for each area to be restored to ensure compliance with activity requirements and applicable methods.

1. Diagnosis and restoration plans.

- Baseline and forensic ecology to evaluate mangrove degradation factors to support restoration plans.
- Use of geospatial tools, remote sensing, and preferential hydrological flow models to guide restoration design.
- Identification of modeling units or activity areas.

2. Hydrological and Sedimentological Restoration, in accordance with the eligible activities established in point 3.1.3 c in the GS BCFW methodology.

- Reconnection of degraded mangrove areas to natural tidal or freshwater flow regimes.
- Manual cleaning of channels and removal of obstructions (e.g., sediment berms, dead trees) to restore tidal flow and ebb.

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- Prioritization of restoration interventions using hydrological modeling results.
- Management and placement of sediments from channel cleaning to improve soil elevation and conditions for assisted natural regeneration.

3. Assisted Natural Regeneration with Native Species. In accordance with the relevant eligible activity in point 3.1.3.b of the AR in the GS BCFW methodology.

- Strengthening mangrove regeneration and other pioneer species, with site protection activities, soil improvement, and management of invasive vegetation.
- Direct sowing of propagules from native mangroves in the restoration area with densities adapted to site conditions.

4. Environmental and Biodiversity Monitoring with Community Participation.

- Monitoring of hydrology, soil and water quality, vegetation structure, carbon stocks, and biodiversity.
- Use of trained community brigades applying standardized monitoring protocols.

5. Governance and Capacity Building

- Training of community members in restoration techniques, monitoring, and adaptive management.
- Ensuring full and effective participation of all stakeholders in decision-making, free prior and informed consent, transparency, and that communities have effective channels to express their concerns.
- Empowerment of women.

6. Strengthening Internal Organization and Sustainable Management.

- Maintenance of restored hydrological systems, prevention of silting, and protection against the return of degradation.
- Promotion of compatible activities that reinforce conservation objectives..

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Roles in Program Implementation

The Coordinating and Managing Entity (CME) of the project is composed of "Carbon2Nature México (C2N México)", a subsidiary of C2N Global and part of the Iberdrola group. C2N contributes its experience in this type of nature-based solutions projects and the necessary financial capital to start the activities and sustain them during the program's initial stage, assuming the financial support as such. On the other hand, Asesoría Técnica y Estudios Costeros (ATEC) as the developer, which contributes its technical expertise in the design and execution of the program; ATEC is an organization based in Mexico that has a multidisciplinary technical team specialized in mangrove conservation and restoration actions, biological monitoring, and carbon quantification. ATEC also has a social team with extensive experience in social management, community work, and execution of community projects, and it has the recognition, acceptance, and trust of the ejido for the project development.

Carbon Credits

The project will be developed following the requirements and procedures of "Gold Standard", which allows the certification of high-impact carbon credits derived from activities such as mangrove restoration. The PoA applies under the Gold Standard "Methodology for Sustainable Management of Mangroves". The revenues that may be generated from these carbon credits are key to ensuring the sustainability of the projects (VPA) to be developed under this PoA and their positive impacts, among which the following stand out:

- a. The recovery and conservation of the mangrove ecosystem, which contributes to biodiversity, carbon capture, and climate resilience.
- b. The strengthening of community capacities, through participation in restoration and monitoring.
- c. The generation of direct economic benefits for the communities, including general economic spillover in the communities from carbon credit sales revenue, as well as wages for participating in restoration and monitoring activities during project development.

It is worth noting that, although the ejidos or communities in general will benefit from the activities and results, the financial support of the program is assumed by C2N, guaranteeing economic viability in its initial phase.

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Duration and Schedule

The duration of the PoA is 30 years, in accordance with the Gold Standard “Methodology for Sustainable Management of Mangroves”. It is expected that the PoA, along with the first VPA “Mangrove Restoration Project of 500 ha” to be implemented in Sabancuy, will be registered in “Gold Standard for the Global Goals” in the first half of 2026.

Preparatory activities for the restoration of the first VPA began with the first meetings in July 2023, while practical preparation actions started in July 2025. The more detailed implementation plan will be communicated to local stakeholders during the VPA-level stakeholder consultation. Such stakeholder consultations are planned to be carried out for each of the VPAs.

Compliance with Safeguards Principles

The program in general, and the projects to be developed under it in particular, will respect the following safeguard principles and ensure that no violation of these occurs:

Principle 1 – Human Rights

Internationally proclaimed human rights will be respected and it will not be complicit in violence or any type of human rights abuses, as defined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. An inclusive environment will be promoted, considering communities in general; men, women, youth, and vulnerable groups will be invited to participate in the various activities. All calls for participation are open to all adults without distinction based on skin color, gender, sexual identity, political or religious beliefs, ethnic and social origin, economic situation, linguistic characteristics, or any other kind. The program does not infringe on any human right; on the contrary, it contributes to income generation for communities, gender equality, non-discrimination, and the right to a healthy environment.

Principle 2 – Gender Equality and Women’s Rights

Affirmative actions with a gender perspective will be implemented; the program will encourage the participation of women and youth, promote women's participation in decision-making, and provide training directed at women if necessary. Everyone will have equal conditions in the design and consultation of program activities and projects developed under it.

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Principle 3 – Community Health, Safety, and Working conditions

No activity is contemplated that could negatively affect the health and safety of the communities. On the contrary, with the implementation of restoration activities, the environment will improve toward a healthier one with the recovery of the mangrove.

Principle 4 – Cultural Heritage, Indigenous People, Displacement, and Resettlement

The program will not involve or be complicit in the alteration, damage, or removal of any site, object, or structure of significant cultural heritage. However, if any cultural area is found within the program area, it will be notified to the National Institute of Anthropology and History (INAH). The program will not involve or be complicit in the relocation of people. Likewise, the program will respect the legal or customary rights of the communities.

A Grievance Redress and Resolution Protocol is in place so that all parties can process, resolve, communicate, and record complaints.

Principle 5 – Corruption

The activities proposed under the PoA do not involve, are not complicit in, or inadvertently contribute to corruption.

Principle 6 – Economic Impacts

It is expected that the projects to be developed under this PoA will contribute to sustainable economic growth. The program's activities will provide training opportunities and employment opportunities, strengthen productive organizations associated with the mangrove ecosystem, all of which will be reflected in the communities' livelihoods.

Principle 7 - Climate and energy

The activities to be developed under this PoA will sequester CO₂, which will be verified in accordance with the Gold Standard's carbon requirements. Biodiversity will also be improved, along with the protection of coastal ecosystems.

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Principle 8 – Water

The projects will not affect natural water patterns and flows. The planning and design of the proposed restoration activities are based on a baseline analysis, which allows modeling based on the ecological characteristics of the area, always seeking to reestablish the natural hydrological flows of the area, in order to promote natural regeneration of the sites and maintain connectivity, favoring the resilience of local ecosystems in the medium or long term. A monitoring program will also be implemented as an early warning measure.

Principle 9 - Environment, Ecology, and Land Management

The projects will have no negative impact on the environment and ecology. The projects will not negatively affect or alter intact ecosystems or those of high conservation value (HCV), such as forests, mangroves, and seagrass meadows.

Contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals



SDG 8 - Decent Work and Economic Growth: The activities within the Program generate local employment opportunities through restoration and monitoring activities, and promote sustainable economic activities such as beekeeping, responsible fishing, and ecotourism, improving the livelihoods of the communities.



SDG 13 - Climate Action: The activities to be developed within the Program improve the ecosystem's capacity to sequester and store carbon, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and contributing to climate change mitigation.



ODS 15 Life on Land and Marine Ecosystems: The activities to be developed within the Program protect and recover degraded ecosystems, promoting biodiversity and sustainable management of natural resources.

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Additionally:



SDG 5 - Gender Equality: The activities to be developed within the Program promote equitable participation of women in restoration activities, monitoring, and decision-making.



SDG 17 - Partnerships for the Goals: The activities to be developed within the Program foster partnerships between the Ejido, Carbon2nature, ATEC, ICML-UNAM, and authorities such as SEMARNAT-CONANP, strengthening governance and sustainability.

Integration of New Partners into the PoA

Various interested communities or ejidos may participate as partners in the project activities (VPA). The relationship between the implementing partners and the Coordinating and Managing Entity (CME) will be formalized through a contract that establishes the terms of collaboration and the conditions for incorporation into the Program of Activities. There are different modalities of cooperation that can be defined through negotiation between the parties.